

Montel. January 12th - 1847

My dear Mr. May.

A Boston ship having been dismasted in a storm, & having come into this port to repair, and the Mate having come to me to have his eyes cured, I have made such an acquaintance with the inhabitants of this wandering habitation as enables me to send a little packet of papers to you.

None of them are of any value. - we have looked up a few printed notices, speeches &c. which may perhaps amuse you, & it is pleasant for us to fancy, that you are, in some slight degree, mingling your sympathies with ours in objects of more local & social interest than those on which we principally correspond.

I have seen Capt. Bliss of the *Damascus*, who most kindly offers to take any thing for me, & I have visited his fine ship. In addition to the packet for you which I will address to your father where Capt. Bliss knows, I have paid to the Captain ^{for} your father's credit, £1. which soon I shall be greatly obliged by your paying at the Liberator's Office for the purchase, in advance of future Liberator to that amount. Mr. Garrison when here, promised me to write & order the Lib. to be sent regularly to me, but it has

never come. Mr. James & I take it, & see it regularly,
but I want to have one to myself, & a friend has been
long disappointed in not supplying my place as the
share of the paper with Mr. James. ~~as arranged before~~
May I beg for you to negotiate this matter for me?

Your letter of December 1st 1846 came in due course &
was as welcome as your letter always, one to myself &
friends. A portion of it I sent to the Inquirer, as you
perhaps may see before this reaches you.

Yours was the first account we received of Mr. Gorman
arrived beyond Halifax, and now we know him, you may be
sure we were greatly interested in all you say about
him, even to his good looks. Last week Mr. R. D. Webb
of Dublin ^{kindly sent to} ~~kindly sent to~~ me a Daguerreotype likeness of
Mr. G. that was taken in Ireland, I much value it, though
in general these likenesses are very ugly affairs. {The
wonderful nature of this light drawing was strikingly ap-
parent to me, when on examining Mr. G.'s picture with
a Compound Microscope, the pupils of the eyes, small as
the minuscule is, were well marked! }

I have been giving myself rather a holiday lately as
regards Anti Slavery matters, having devoted much time
to them last year. A new school of which I send you notice,
has been lately receiving some of our attention. The
cause is presenting to you however, necessitates my suffering myself

to a few A.S. points.

My tract is out of print: 100 copies were applied for lately from
Belfast, but they could not be furnished. Tho' somewhat expensive,
I mean to reprint it, and shall be especially obliged by your help
in rendering the next edition more perfect.

As if I wish it to be useful to the in communicating a knowledge of
Am. Slavery in this country, & in exciting sympathy in your movement,
it must not ^{exhibit} ~~show~~ more decidedly ~~perkins~~ ^{perkins} and bits than it can do.
But I must speak more definitely of your two societies, — I mean
a little more of the "Liberty Party." How shall I describe it? You
have of course heard of the Address to the "Belfast Ladies A.S. Socy."
arriving at serving both parties in America, tho' certainly favouring
the Liberty Party? The Address was written by Maria Webb, a cousin
of R. D. W. but a lady, he tells me, well read in American A.S.
politics, & a decided friend of orthodoxy, quietism, & the Liberty
Party. Is she correct in saying the Lib. Am. & For. A.S. Socy. or
"Liberty Party"? Is not this "New Organization" Socy? defended?

A letter in M.S. long & interesting, from Mr. Goodell to a Mrs.
Methuen an Am. lady now in Ireland, is in press in circulation.
Mr. Webb has sent, or means to send a copy to Mr. Quincy for
me to show it. Even Mr. Garrison's friend feel interested
in the letter. Mr. Webb & Miss Pease have com. with me about
it.

You will be amused at hearing that I have seen a good
deal of your newspaper countryman Henry Clapp Jenkins!

He spent a week, if not more in Bristol. The Liberator had made
me previously acquainted with him, so I did not seek his
society; at the same time I would ^{not} decline meeting him in ^{any} ~~any~~
~~company~~, & first & last, I had much conversation with him. ^{could}
I have seen him without any unfavorable prejudice, I think I

should have set him down as an ill-tempered, dissatisfied man; clever: not so much one desirous of securing & passing under false colors, as not knowing his own mind, & being undecided as to what course to take, I am especially referring to the many guests and very hostile to W. L. G. & his friends. Two or three steady friends of Mr. G. with myself met him at Mr. C. Thomas's (an A. S. Friend, but not known on the subject, with whom Douglass lodged ^{when in the U. S.} & where Mr. Clapp was domiciled) on that occasion. Mr. C. said, as I thought, some curious things.

W. L. G. he believed would stand in reputation next to G. Washington speaking of the "Defect in the Union," he declared Mr. G. never advocated in the U. S. — that the Liberty Party fully assented in the sentiment of "No Union with Slaveholders" which recent, "as Slaveholders, & as related to slaveholding transactions" — ~~from~~ ^{from}

himself "Defect in the Union," from which ^{notions} ~~notions~~ were drawn of your views on this subject. Mr. C. said my statement at p. 21,

of the "B. Notice" was most incorrect, where I speak of the L. Party's "escaping the odium" attached to G.'s party. He declares that

public odium, especially at the polls, is ten times greater on them than on the "Am. A. S. Socy." He promised to make some comments on the B. N. & let me see them. But he took the copy away, & I have heard nothing of him since. He knew of my

estimate of Mr. Garrison, & I doubt not was ^{what} ~~some~~ ^{preceded} before me: but I have no doubt that with the many old A. S. people in this country, those attached to the "B. & F. A. S. Socy," the Quakers

especially, he has greatly increased their former aversion to Mr. Garrison. And I think it very probable, should Mr. C. endeavor to show in the U. S. that W. L. G. is not esteemed much in England, that he may give the opinion of Mr. G.'s British friends, who admit what they considered the defects of his mental characteristics.

Mr. Clapp Jr. was making himself very popular in England by his addresses on Temperance & Peace. Occasionally he gives a lecture on the

American Anti-Slavery movement, but he did not adventure much
in that line in Bristol: it was too soon after the visit of Miss G. & F.D.

Mr. Webb spoke strongly of G.'s unwise conduct towards N. P. Rogers, & said
it had shortened his life. The news of his death came while C. was in the city.
He spoke indignantly of the silent reference to the death of N. P. R. in the Liberator.

I saw the long tirade against Superintendence, Garrison, N. D. Webb &c in
the "Lynn Pioneer". There must be something peculiar in the A. S. movement,
as also in your countrymen compared with yours: for such sort of bitter quarrels,
accusations & recriminations ^{among those who have been friends} as we see in your papers, seldom
exist, or at least become ^{known} ~~public~~ ^{known} here. Do not make public any

thing I have said unfavorable to Mr. C. I may judge him with undue severity,
to any communication to private friends. I have no sort of objection
to.

You will have heard from Mr. Garrison the history of the MS
of Clarkson's "Last Thoughts". Our A. S. Reporter of this month thro'
the Committee & a letter from Mrs. Clarkson, endeavors to discover
what Mr. C. has any approbation of your Society. But with this "Look
thoughtful before the world, the task is a hard one. ^{Whether} Mr. C. near the Committee
as the case ventures a word of explanation about that document
in her letter to W. L. G. (a most unbecomable & unlady-like) threat of exposure is implied!

Our "A. S. League" gets on but little, so far as I can learn: still
if they continue to labor at it, - if Douglass keeps firm, something
may yet spring up to give it impulse. I doubt if F. D. likes this

uphill work, so swiftly was he before sailing on the tide of popularity
while observing him at Liverpool, I could not but tremble for
his future domestic comfort when he returns to the U. S. You

can hardly imagine how he is noticed, - petted among our, by ladies:
some of them really a little exceed the bounds of propriety, as delicacy, as

for as opprobriums are concerned: yet F. D.'s conduct is most gracefully
correct, judicious & decorous. I doubt if he forms intimacies much
with gentlemen. I should think him of a suspicious turn of mind: but

he is most devoid of any thing, certainly a very remarkable man - His
past is often spent with women of education & refined

testes & no answer, he will feel a "craving void" when he returns to his own family. — But of the League: No wealthy, or well known high standing persons have yet joined it: & in this country such leaders are essential to the rapid formation of any new organization. Had I not consented to become Treasurer to the United Auxiliary Co. / League, it would I fear have died away; but I cannot find any aiders & coadjutors.

You have long since found out that the letters &c you received first in New York came by Mr Garrison, the contents of the longer by first sent from here, being then unexamined in your Custom House. We are looking forward with great interest to the reports of your Fair and of course, — to the receipt in our presents home and with. I fear some far — of your A.S. friends here, think the United Aux as almost the only subject of attention to the ladies who have to manage the extensive & complicated affairs of your annual Bazaar! I am sure we ought to be satisfied with the slightest notice of our contributions.

Our meeting at Burns' Hotel, Liverpool about noon on the 4th of November after our return from accompanying Mr Garrison to the Acadia, had, to my view a solemnity in it. I knew not if it appeared so to others: no one seemed disposed to make a display of sentimentality. At that meeting, H. Douglass, after consideration, firmly declared his decision to be to advocate the cause "League" — and which I regard very important, for his influence is very great for the time at least, with every auditory he addresses. Geo. Thompson soon told me often, in private conversation, that he did not feel at all secure what course H. D. would take on this point, as he was not a very manageable person. We fully discussed the "Principles" of the League as first adopted in London; "Householding under all conceivable circumstances &c" and on my suggestion it was unanimously ~~also~~ resolved to simplify it, — ~~as~~ even more indeed than

I advocated. Mr. Thompson even thought the commencing word
"all" as in the Bristol card, unneeded, & it was at length resolved
it should simply be, "Slaveholding is a sin, & ought to be im-
mediately abandoned" I knew of no minor proposition, this
Major does not contain. Mr. Wright suggested, "Slaveholding
in itself" is a sin &c. This would have been a most unnecessary
intrusion of words to English taste & notions. I believe on
that Wednesday night, (Nite the day of W. L. G.'s departure) I was the
only one of the party that slept in Liverpool. The Webbs had sailed
to Dublin. several were gone to London &c. - Having come from Bristol
on the preceding day, passed a short & almost sleepless night, and a
most active & exciting day (the 4th) I was glad of the rest of a night
previous to my returning on the next day to Bristol. I had returned
before any of my friends knew of my absence.

A silver inkstand with a suitable inscription is now
in my house which I am going to forward to Mr. Doyle at
Manchester by the 10th Inst. It has been purchased by
small subscriptions among friends here in whom he had
excited an interest. In addition, a young Quaker lady here
made a very elegant piece in which ^{£10} the balance of the sum
collected, will be contained. I shall also have to to assist
to him to O. or L. for copies of his Narrative which I have
sold. - A young friend of ours, whom Mr. Garrison will
recollect as Miss Wankes, has translated H. D.'s Narrative
into French, and hopes some Paris bookseller will undertake
its publication, either for H. D.'s benefit, or else for the
sake of his own profit, & the cause.

I send you a scheme for getting off the Gt. Britain sent to
Provincers. I fear however, the Company will be defeated

and that my life ^{the} ~~would be~~ trifling compared to that many will
be £2 or 300, - which is more than it is agreeable to lose.

I have written this in such a hurry that I fear you will
have difficulty in deciphering it, my ^{writing} ~~pen~~ like the spokes
of a wheel, becomes indistinct as speed is increased.
The awful scold to-morrow, & I must make up my
head - with my daughter. Kind remembrance from, and
our best compliments to Mrs. May & love to your
daughter. I am, my dear Mr. May

Most truly Yours

J. B. Allen